

973.7L63

M1908

H6R131

Brown, James Edgar

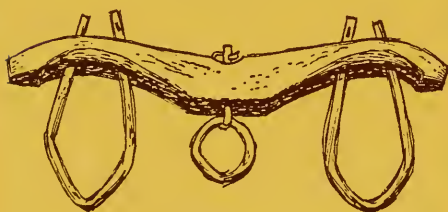
vol.1

No. 1 (Feb. 1910)

The Railsplitter. The Official
Organ of the Lincoln League of
Illinois...No. 1

LINCOLN ROOM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
LIBRARY



MEMORIAL

the Class of 1901

founded by

HARLAN HOYT HORNER

and

HENRIETTA CALHOUN HORNER

Library Friends

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

This book has been
digitized through
the generosity of

Robert O. Blissard
Class of 1957



University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign

THE RAIL SPLITTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
LINCOLN LEAGUE *of* ILLINOIS

Vol. I.

FEBRUARY, 1910.

No. 1.

25 Cents a Copy.

\$1.00 per Year.



"With the fine stroke and gesture of a king,
He built the rail-pile as he built the State,
Pouring his splendid strength through every blow,
The conscience of him testing every stroke,
To make his deed the Measure of a man."

Edwin Markham.

PRODUCED BY THE
LINCOLN LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS

EDITED BY
JAMES EDGAR BROWN

PREAMBLE

(Adopted in 1909)



We, Republicans of Illinois, believing that this, the centennial year of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, is an opportune and auspicious time to awaken a high sense of duty in public affairs do hereby form the Lincoln League of Illinois and invite all young men to join who desire the Republican Party to remain true to the ideals of those who forged it and who wish the State of Illinois to maintain the high standards set by Lincoln and his followers.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:
ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR
ISSUED QUARTERLY

Cover design and cuts in this issue of "The Rail Splitter" were made by the Capitol Engraving Co., Springfield, Illinois.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
216 CLARK STREET
CHICAGO

THE RAIL SPLITTER

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
LINCOLN LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS

JAMES EDGAR BROWN, Editor

VOLUME I.

CHICAGO, U. S. A., FEBRUARY, 1910.

NUMBER 1.

OBJECT

THE LINCOLN LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS is formed to perpetuate the ideals of Abraham Lincoln by organizing Lincoln Posts throughout the State to encourage and inspire men, especially young men, to learn and disseminate his teachings and to develop the growth and spread of republican principles as taught and practiced by the first leader of the party of progress, thereby inducing all young men to take a more active part in Local, State and National affairs, to the end that the standard of citizenship may be elevated, and the problems of today met with the same lofty purpose and unselfish patriotism that inspired him, and that Illinois, the birthplace and cradle of Republicanism, may hold first rank among the commonwealths of the nation in public service and leadership.

LIST OF OFFICERS 1909 - 1910

FRANK R. REID President
AURORA, ILL.

P. H. O'DONNELL . Third Vice-President
BELVIDERE, ILL.

RALPH B. HOLMES, First Vice-President
DANVILLE, ILL.

H. M. HOBSON Secretary
CHICAGO, ILL.

FRANK L. HATCH, Second Vice-President
SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

GEO. WOODRUFF Treasurer
JOLIET, ILL.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
216 CLARK STREET, CHICAGO, ILL.
Telephone Harrison 2844

THE organization of the Lincoln League of Illinois marks an epoch in the affairs of this State. Not that the League is political, for it is not except in the broader sense of being patriotic, and having at heart the welfare of the State. It is not the purpose of the League to engage in factional strifes nor to advance the interests of any clique of men. It is an organized and united effort on the part of the vigorous young citizenship of the great State of Illinois to take the place to which they are entitled in the ranks, to share their just proportion of civic and political responsibility and to take an earnest, active part in the all important public questions that await solution.

With such ideals in mind, the League can not fail to do much toward raising the standard of citizenship in Illinois, believing as we do, with Lincoln, that "Right makes might; and in that faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it."

The founders of the League believe that people secure only so good a government as they deserve, and that failure to secure the best government is always and everywhere due to the indifference of the people themselves. The citizenship of this State, alert and alive to the questions of the hour, and fired with an enthusiasm and desire for good government, will obtain it. The founding of LINCOLN Posts throughout the State is a part of the general plan to help awaken interest through locally organized effort.

The Lincoln Oratorical Contest for which prizes to the amount of \$100, have been provided will be the means whereby each year the Students of this State, as they cross the threshold that leads to citizenship, may become imbued with the ideas and ideals of Abraham Lincoln, and it is hoped that it will give them the desire to meet the problems of life with the same lofty purpose that Lincoln had.

As true patriotism is that public virtue which is derived from a strong sense of the citizen's own interest in the preservation and prosperity of the free government of which they are members, and as the best way to preserve the state is to train the citizens in the spirit of its constitution and laws, so the Lincoln League hopes to place before the people of Illinois the opportunity to know about these questions, through organized agency in every community in the State, believing that the mass of our citizens requires only to understand a question to decide it properly.

A SON OF ILLINOIS.

The name of Lincoln will forever be associated with Illinois. From the capital of this Commonwealth he went to undertake a task which he believed larger than that which confronted Washington. In the same capital his ashes are deposited beneath the monument which is visited by thousands as one of the sacred shrines of the Republic. It is fitting that Illinois should be the Mecca for patriotic pilgrims who wish to do honor and lay a wreath at the shrine of Lincoln.

Why not erect a great popular memorial, one to which the common people, whom he loved, may be admitted, as a practical and useful accompaniment to an annual national celebration?

It is a peculiar attribute of Lincoln that the years add power to this sentiment. He was not a leader who won popular favor in a particular period to be forgotten afterward in the presence of some other more brilliant hero. He had the qualities which last. His life appeals to the youth with greater force than that of any other man in American history. There is a constantly growing company of citizens who admire him and study his career. There are many reasons for believing that his memory will be cherished with sentimental devotion when every one who knew him in life is dead. A Lincoln memorial erected by the people would be a remarkable expression of the undying sentiment which attaches to the name and the career of the most illustrious son of Illinois.

May not the Lincoln League address itself to the accomplishment of such a memorial?



THE BIRTH OF THE LINCOLN LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS.

On the 8th day of last December, in the old homestead of Abraham Lincoln in 8th Street in the City of Springfield, in the very room where he received the notice of his election to the Presidency, was organized the Lincoln League of Illinois, by men who were led to this historic spot by the desire to reverence his memory and perpetuate the ideals for which he stood.

The meeting was called to order by Honorable J. Bert Miller of Kankakee, and after the adoption of the constitution and by-laws the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Frank R. Reid, Aurora; First Vice President, Ralph B. Holmes, Danville; Second Vice President, Frank L. Hatch, Springfield; Third Vice President, P. H. O'Donnell, Belvidere; Secretary, H. M. Hobson, Chicago; Treasurer, George Woodruff, Joliet.

Thousands of young men have enlisted under the banner of the League, although but sixty days old; and when the purposes of this organization shall be made fully known other young men, animated by the same desire for good government which Lincoln had, will become members.

These men are not skilled in politics and they may not accomplish immediate results, but they desire above all else to work to the end that public offices shall be held by men of high and honest ideals, and hope that the tide of active interest in public affairs in Illinois and throughout the nation will rise high, and that every citizen in this great nation will use his earnest efforts to secure good laws and have them honestly and efficiently administered by active participation in all public affairs, and that this will become truly a "Government of the people, by the people and for the people."

Abraham Lincoln---Rail Splitter

By J. McCAN DAVIS.

Author of "Abraham Lincoln: His Book," "How Abraham Lincoln Became President," etc.



J. McCAN DAVIS.

The destiny of men and of nations has often hinged upon what seemed a trivial thing. If Abraham Lincoln, in the spring of 1860, had been asked what he regarded as the most important event of his early life, it is not probable that he would have mentioned his achievements as a rail-maker. But now we may say, without detracting a whit from his transcendent greatness, but rather giving it emphasis, that if Lincoln had not been a rail-splitter he would not have been President.

The place of the Lincoln rail in American history is unique but extremely important. In many ways

it was the most powerful factor in the Presidential campaign of 1860. That it played so vital a part was no mere accident; nor was the rail to be regarded a trifling thing, ill-befitting so great a man and so great a time.

We are accustomed to think of Lincoln's elevation to the Presidency as one of the fathomless, predestined events of history—as perhaps it was, in the larger sense. We now see that the foundation had been laid long before; that the man had grown gradually to Presidential stature; that a great crisis and a mighty task were at hand—and that here was the man. But a half-century ago these things were not so clear, and to transform this rail-splitter, this country lawyer, this western debater into a President was the magnificent achievement of practical politics. Nowhere in the annals of American politics do we find politicians playing a finer role; nowhere, politicians more adroit and resourceful than the men whose strategic skill and tireless energy brought about the first nomination of Abraham Lincoln for President.

Lincoln has grown to such colossal stature as to make it seem quite incredible now that only seven days before the Republican National Convention was to convene in Chicago, in May, 1860, it was altogether doubtful that Lincoln would have his own State back of his Presidential candidacy. In the country at large, he was regarded as a mere possibility. Seward of New York was the commanding figure in the

contest and seemed a "sure winner." Even in that heroic age of politics there were many men whose chief concern was to "land with the winner," and it seemed certain that Seward would capture a respectable part of the Illinois delegation to the National Convention. How to prevent such a catastrophe was the problem that confronted the friends of Lincoln upon the opening of the State Convention in Decatur on the 9th of May.

The dramatic episode of that convention—the unheralded entry of old John Hanks, Lincoln's early partner in rail-making—the march of the old man down the aisle bearing aloft a banner mounted on Lincoln rails—the appearance of Lincoln himself, dragged forth from his hiding place off in a corner of the "wigwam"—his modest little speech admitting that he "at least made rails equally as good"—the storm of enthusiasm that carried the convention off its feet—the adoption of a resolution declaring Lincoln "the first choice of the Republican party of Illinois for the Presidency" and instructing the delegates to the National Convention at Chicago to use all honorable means to secure his nomination and to cast the vote of the State as a unit for him—all this was no spontaneous, fortuitous thing, but it was a coup carefully planned and splendidly executed. It had been conceived weeks before by Richard J. Oglesby, then a Decatur lawyer, afterward a Union General, Governor of Illinois, and a United States Senator. It was Oglesby who, with John Hanks, drove out to the old "clearing" on the Sangamon bottom, secured two of the rails Lincoln had made in 1830, hid them away in his barn, and made the banner that was to electrify a convention and decide the fortunes of a Presidential candidate. The one important result of the Decatur Convention was that it gave Lincoln a solid delegation from his own State, without which his candidacy before the National Convention would have been utterly hopeless.

The fence rail was the most conspicuous feature of the Presidential campaign of 1860—the most momentous political combat ever fought out on the American continent. It became inseparably associated with the man who had been called from the boundless west to uphold the standard of the new Republican party. As the rail was carried aloft in parades, its mute eloquence was more powerful by far than the silvery words of any orator. It told the story of this man's lowly origin, his boyhood struggles, his splendid triumph over vast obstacles. It appealed irresistably to the popular imagination; it touched the chords of popular sympathy. It symbolized the simplicity, the strength, the bald, rugged honesty of the man. It stood for the best there was, and is, in this great Republic—the limitless possibilities of the American youth. To the masses it bore the message that Abraham Lincoln was one of them—that, above all else, he was the representative, the champion of the common people, whom God must have loved, as he said, "because he made so many of them."

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

NOVEMBER 19, 1863.

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate - - we cannot consecrate - - we cannot hallow - - this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they, who fought here, have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln

(Selected.)

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States, was born in Hardin County, Ky., on the 12th of February, 1809, and died in Washington, D. C., on the 15th of April, 1865. His ancestors were English Quakers, who settled in America in the 17th century. His grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, a man of property, removed from Virginia to Kentucky about 1780 with three sons. Thomas, the youngest son, learned the carpenter's trade, and married (June 12th, 1806,) Nancy Hanks, a handsome young woman of lowly condition but possessing qualities of intellect and character above the average. From this union came three children: the oldest a daughter; the second, named Abraham; the third, a son who died in infancy. Abraham's parents were plain people, and the log-cabin they lived in was a true home. The father could not read or write (except to scrawl his signature); he was always poor, and is described as shiftless. The mother could read, but not write. A woman of piety and excellent judgment, she left an indelible impression on her son. From her he inherited the serious temperament, brightened by the spirit of playfulness that was so prominent a trait of the man throughout his troubled career. She died in 1818, and the boy of nine deeply mourned her loss. In later years he said: "All that I am, and all that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

In 1816 Thomas Lincoln sold his Kentucky farm and found a new home in a sparsely-settled district of Spencer County, Indiana. In his boyhood Abraham learned the use of firearms, and helped his father cut down trees. He got, all told, a year's schooling. His teachers were men who never went "beyond readin', writin', and cipherin', to the rule of three." The boy eagerly devoured the few books that fell into his hands: The Bible, Æsop's Fables, Pilgrim's Progress, Robinson Crusoe, and the lives of Washington and Henry Clay. After he grew up he kept on reading and studying, and gained what must be considered a fair education, including Euclid and the rudiments of surveying. In childhood he had a passion for restating in clear language, the confused and not over-intelligible ideas of others. In this way he acquired the unusual power of "putting things." When a youth he practiced speaking in public on temperance and political subjects.

At the age of 20, Abe Lincoln, as he was called, had grown to extraordinary stature, nearly 6 feet 4 inches, and his great muscular strength, was the talk of the neighborhood. He had developed his native vein of humor, which afterward made him famous. From the life of a woodman he turned to flat-boating, making a voyage down the Mississippi to New Orleans and back with one companion.

In 1830 Thomas Lincoln, who had married an estimable widow, Sarah Bush Johnston, moved to Sangamon County, Illinois. From this home he departed in a short time to Coles County, where he died in 1851. Meanwhile his son had found employment as a farm hand and rail splitter. With his rifle he supplied the family with game in the hard winter of 1830-31. In the spring of 1831 he made another flat-boat trip down the Mississippi. After his return he clerked in a grocery at New Salem, and became known among his acquaintances as "Honest Abe." In 1832 he served in the Black Hawk war, part of the time as captain of a volunteer company, but saw no fighting. Later he became a storekeeper, postmaster, and at intervals worked at surveying. He was a Whig member of the Illinois legislature eight years (1834-42), and as a legislator he made a creditable record, and through his influence the State capital was removed from Vandalia to Springfield in 1839.

Having studied law Lincoln was admitted to the bar in 1836, and the next year began his law practice in Springfield, as partner of John T. Stuart. Among his associates in the Illinois capital were men who afterward achieved eminence in law and politics. It is enough to say that Lincoln held his own in legal combats with the best of them. In these years he met the man destined to be his political rival, Stephen A. Douglas. In 1841 he formed a new partnership with Stephen T. Logan, and from 1843 to his death was senior partner with William H. Herndon, whom he generally called Billy.

While Lincoln earned and deserved the reputation of being an able lawyer, he was never a learned jurist. His leisure was spent in general reading, history, and political economy. English grammar he had mastered by himself, and he acquired skill in composition by writing out an epitome of each book he read.

Thus the young lawyer laboriously schooled himself in thinking and in the art of expressing himself clearly and correctly. In the Court-room it was characteristic of him to waste no time on unessentials, but to spend his strength on the one point that was really the heart of the case. Sometimes his pleas were surprisingly short. A good illustration of his terse manner of speaking is his address to the jury in the suit against a man known as "King Hart," for seizing a piece of land from the plaintiff, Lincoln's client. The trial was held at Metamora, Woodford County. During the trial he had little to say and the case was seemingly lost, but he gained a prompt verdict by this speech: "We don't believe in kings in this country. We refused that doctrine almost 100 years ago, but we have a doctrine in this country that we do believe in. It is the Monroe Doctrine. When the kings of Europe attempt to sieze land in this hemisphere we apply the Monroe Doctrine to them and they experience a change of heart. Why should we not apply the same doctrine to American kings? This little king is attempting to secure possession of land to which he has no claim, and you, gentlemen of the jury, stand in the

same position as the government of the United States: you must protect a weak vassal by applying the Monroe Doctrine to this American king."

Lincoln's law practice grew and he prospered, although many of his clients were poor and fees were sometimes nothing.

Success had come, but the death of his sweetheart clouded his life and deepened his melancholy. He married (Nov. 4, 1842,) Mary Todd, a woman belonging to an influential family of Lexington, Ky. Though a devoted wife she was not his heart's choice. They had four sons, of whom only the eldest, Robert Todd, is living.

There is truth in the statement that Lincoln was too much of a politician to be a great lawyer. He took more than a passing interest in politics, and he was quick to improve opportunities for political advancement. In the election of 1844 he "stumped" the State as the champion of the Whig party, making many speeches on the tariff question, which he had thoroughly studied. He spoke familiarly, mingling argument with anecdote and attempting no flights of oratory. His homely illustrations and striking utterances left a deep impression on his audiences. To enter Congress had long been his ambition, and in 1846 he was elected as representative from the Central District of Illinois. He was the only Whig from his State, his six colleagues being Democrats. During his term (1847-9) he held with his party in favoring a protective tariff and in making appropriations for public improvements. Although opposed on principle to the Mexican War, he invariably voted for granting supplies needed by soldiers in the field. In 1858 he said (in debate with Douglas: "Whenever the Democratic party tried to get me to vote that the war had been righteously begun by the President, I would not do it." Already he had pronounced views on the question of slavery. When a member introduced a bill to abolish the slave trade in the District of Columbia, Lincoln proposed an amendment for the abolition of slavery in the District. He always supported the Wilmot Proviso, voting for it about forty times. He was not a candidate for re-election, but applied for the office of commissioner of lands. This position he failed to get. Instead he was offered the governorship of Oregon, which he declined.

Returning to Springfield Lincoln resumed the practice of law. Meanwhile he closely watched the signs of the times, foreseeing trouble with the slaveholders because of their manifest intention to encroach upon the soil of the Western Territories. He was deeply stirred by the repeal of the Missouri Compromise in 1854, and entered actively into the canvass of that year. In this memorable campaign he was pitted against Stephen A. Douglas, the "Little Giant." The first debate between the two men was at the State Fair (in October), before a vast multitude. Lincoln's speech on this occasion was regarded the ablest effort of this campaign. Its keynote is in the following passage: "My distinguished friend says it is an insult to the emigrants to Kansas and Nebraska to suppose they are not able to govern themselves. We must not slur over an argument

of this kind because it happens to tickle the ear. It must be met and answered. I admit that the emigrant to Kansas and Nebraska is competent to govern himself, but I deny his right to govern any other person without that person's consent." The second meeting of the two champions was in Peoria, and after Lincoln had finished, Douglas (as a hearer remarked) "hadn't much to say." Thereafter the "Little Giant" kept out of the way of his antagonist. Through Lincoln's influence Lyman Trumbull, the candidate of the Anti-Nebraska (afterward Republican) party, was elected United States Senator. The same year Lincoln declined the nomination for governor.

In the first Republican National Convention, held at Philadelphia in 1856, Lincoln received 110 votes for the vice-presidency on the ticket with John C. Fremont. When the choice of the Convention fell upon Fremont and Dayton as the standard bearers of the new party, Lincoln entered earnestly into the campaign. His name headed the electoral ticket of Illinois. In those years Lincoln had a great reputation as a campaign speaker and was a tower of strength to his party. The common people recognized him as a diamond in the rough and he was admired and trusted even by his enemies. His speeches were masterly and held his audiences spellbound. No other orator of the period could equal him in the rare combination of wit, argument and dramatic power. A contemporary who saw and heard him gave this word portrait of the man: "At rest, his features, though those of a man of mark, are not such as belong to a handsome man. His head sits well on his shoulders but beyond that it defies description. It is very large, and phrenologically, well proportioned, betokening power in all its developments. A slightly Roman nose, a wide-cut mouth and a dark complexion, with the appearance of having been weather-beaten, complete the description."

○

LINCOLN STORIES.

Many characteristic stories are told of Lincoln—some of them authentic and many of them of doubtful origin. It is said he was once riding the circuit while practicing law in Illinois and while passing through the woods in company with some brother lawyers he discovered some young birds which had fallen out of their nest. He gathered them up tenderly, discovered the nest, climbed the tree and replaced them, amid great excitement but to the subsequent joy of the mother bird. Lincoln's lawyer friends laughed at him for his pains but he replied that he could not have slept that night had he not restored the fledglings to their nest.

○

"Lincoln's whole life was a process of enfranchisement from selfish and narrow views. He stood at last, on a serener height than other men of his epoch, breathing an ampler air, perceiving more truly the eternal realities."



OFFICERS OF LINCOLN LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS, 1909-1910

MR. FRANK R. REID, the first President of the Lincoln League of Illinois, is thirty years of age, was born in Aurora, and is by profession a lawyer. He attended the public schools of his native town and later was a student of the Chicago College of Law and the University of Chicago. For a time he practiced law at Aurora, and was elected State's Attorney of Kane County in 1904. He was President of the State's Attorneys' Association in 1907-8, and has an extensive acquaintance throughout the State of Illinois.

Mr. Reid served as Assistant United States Attorney during 1908-9, and recently resigned to become a member of the law firm of Knight, Reid & Godman.

* * * *

Ralph B. Holmes, Vice-President of the Lincoln League, was born at Urbana, Illinois, in 1874, educated in the public schools of Danville and at the University of Chicago. He taught school in Vermilion County for five years, during which time he was principal of Grant and Lincoln schools of Danville.

Member of Battery "A" of Illinois National Guard a number of years and served as Lieutenant in the above named Battery during the Spanish-American War, seeing service in Porto Rico. He was afterwards elected Captain of the Battery and later on, Adjutant of the Artillery Battalion of Illinois National Guard.

In 1899, he was elected County Superintendent of Schools of Vermilion County and served as Superintendent for seven years, during which time he read law with George Buckingham, now of the firm of Defrees, Buckingham, Ritter & Campbell of Chicago, and he has practiced law for the last three years, and is actively interested in the work of the Lincoln League.

* * * *

Mr. Frank L. Hatch, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Lincoln League, was born at Springfield, Illinois, September 6, 1869. He is a son of Ozias M. Hatch, former Secretary of State of Illinois, and Julia R. (Enos) Hatch.

He was educated in the public schools of Springfield, graduated from Yale in 1892, and from Harvard Law School in 1895.

He was Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois 1897-1904, and State's Attorney of Sangamon County 1904-1908.

He is a worthy son of a worthy sire, and has been active in the work of the Lincoln League.

* * * *

Patrick H. O'Donnell, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Lincoln League, was born in Belvidere, Illinois, June 7, 1872. He is a son of Michael O'Donnell and Margaret O'Donnell. He is unmarried and resides with them. In 1898 he took a degree of Bachelor of Laws in the

University of Michigan and from there went into the office of Judge Robert W. Wright in Belvidere. In 1901 he was elected City Attorney of Belvidere, and again in 1903, to succeed himself. In 1904 he was elected State's Attorney of Boone County, Illinois, and in 1908 was re-elected to the second term.

He has always been a Republican in politics and has taken a prominent part in the politics of his county and in the State. His record as a criminal prosecutor has been a good one. His most notable achievement was in closing up the soft drink places in the City of Belvidere and in sending thirteen violators to jail at one time.

He has taken a deep interest in the new "Lincoln League of Illinois."

* * * *

Mr. Henry M. Hobson, Secretary of the Lincoln League, was born at Bedford, Indiana, November 22nd, 1881. Came to Chicago in December 1899, started in the law book business with George L. Jones and has been manager of the Chicago office of the Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company of Rochester, N. Y., for the past four years.

He is a member of the Indiana Society, City Club and Hamilton Club of Chicago, of which latter club he is chairman of the Membership Committee. Mr. Hobson is married and has two children, a girl and a boy, and is one of the organizers of the Lincoln League of Illinois.

* * * *

Mr. George Woodruff, Treasurer of the Lincoln League and President of the First National Bank, Joliet, Illinois, is probably the youngest National Bank President in the United States, having been elected President of the oldest and most influential national bank of Joliet at the age of twenty-six.

Mr. Woodruff attended college at the University of Michigan, and afterwards graduated from Yale. He has studied law and has been admitted to the bar in several states. He has made a special study of finance, both in America and Europe. Mr. Woodruff is also president of several local organizations, and is devoting all of his energies to the up-building of Joliet, having several magnificent buildings now under construction.

Mr. Woodruff has always been an active Republican and is enthusiastic about the future growth of the Lincoln League.

—○—

"Mr. Lincoln's campaign speeches were of a very high order. They were pungent without bitterness and powerful without harshness."—(*New York Tribune*, Nov. 9, 1858.)

—○—

Walt Whitman once said of Lincoln's portraits "None of the artists or pictures has caught the deep though subtle and indirect expression of this man's face. *There is something else there.*"

PUNCH'S AMENDE.

During the Civil War the *London Punch* omitted no opportunity to abuse, defame, slander, traduce and villify Mr. Lincoln and America, both by word and cartoon. However, when the news of President Lincoln's death reached London, *Punch* published a poem called "The Amende," of which the following stanzas are a fair example:

"You lay a wreath on murdered Lincoln's bier,
 You, who with mocking pencil went to trace
 Broad for the self complacent British sneer,
 His length of shambling limb, his furrowed face,

 Yes he had lived to shame me from my sneer,
 To lame my pencil and confute my pen,—
 To make me own this hind of princes peer,
 This rail-splitter, a true-born king of men."

This amende was made grudgingly. The editorial staff was divided on the propriety of publishing the poem. In Shirley Brook's diary appears the following:

"Dined *Punch*. All there. Let out my views against some verses on Lincoln in which T. T. (Tom Taylor) had not only made *P.* eat humble pie, but swallow dish and all."

 THE AMERICAN CHESS PLAYERS.

(From the *London Punch*)

Although of Conquest Yankee North despairs,
 His brain for some expedient wild he racks,
 And thinks that having failed on the white squares
 He can't do worse by moving on the Blacks.

 MALICE TOWARD NONE—CHARITY FOR ALL.

"Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, that the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in—to bind up the nation's wound; to call for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphans; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." (From the Second Inaugural.)

ILLINOIS SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN OF 1858.

The Senatorial Campaign of 1858, in which Stephen A. Douglas was elected to the U. S. Senate over Abraham Lincoln, attracted national attention.

This Battle of the Giants drew newspaper reporters from great distances, who followed the fortunes of the candidates and graphically portrayed the events of the exciting campaign.

The land was tense with excitement. Great problems awaited solution. The culmination of events vital to the life of the nation was imminent. The following contribution to a New York newspaper is a fair illustration:

"It is astonishing how deep an interest in politics this people take. Over long weary miles of hot and dusty prairie the processions of eager partisans come—on foot, on horseback, in wagons drawn by horses or mules; men, women, and children, old and young; the half sick, just out of the last "shake"; children in arms, infants at the maternal fount, pushing on in clouds of dust and beneath the blazing sun; settling down at the town where the meeting is, with hardly a chance for sitting, and even less opportunity for eating, waiting in anxious groups for hours at the places of speaking, talking, discussing, litigious, vociferous, while the war artillery, the music of the bands, the waving of banners, the huzzahs of the crowds, as delegation after delegation appears; the cry of the peddlers vending all sorts of ware, from an infallible cure of "agur" to a monster watermelon in slices to suit purchasers—combine to render the occasion one scene of confusion and commotion. The hour of one arrives and a perfect rush is made for the grounds; a column of dust is rising to the heavens and fairly deluging those who are hurrying on through it. Then the speakers come with flags, and banners, and music, surrounded by cheering partisans. Their arrival at the ground and immediate approach to the stand is the signal for shouts that rend the heavens. They are introduced to the audience amidst prolonged and enthusiastic cheers; they are interrupted by frequent applause; and they sit down finally amid the same uproarious demonstration. The audience sit or stand patiently throughout, and, as the last word is spoken, make a break for their homes, first hunting up lost members of their families, getting their scattered wagon-loads together, and, as the daylight fades away, entering again upon the broad prairies and slowly picking their way back to the place of beginning." (Special correspondence from Charleston, Illinois, to the *New York Post*, September 24, 1858.)

In the opinion of Hon. J. McCan Davis of Springfield, who has written several books on Lincoln and his times, the rise of Mr. Lincoln was due, in a large measure, to the stimulus received from his contact with the "Little Giant," Stephen A. Douglas.

LINCOLN'S LETTER TO MAJOR-GENERAL McCLELLAN.

(February 3, 1862.)

President Lincoln had, on January 31st, 1862, issued his "Special War Order No. 1," directing a forward movement of the Army of the Potomac. This order conflicted with plans which McClellan had formed and he remonstrated. Lincoln's reply is a good illustration of his power of compact statement, as well as of his mastery of the military situation. The letter follows:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, February 3, 1862.

Major-General McClellan:

MY DEAR SIR: You and I have distinct and different plans for a movement of the Army of the Potomac—yours to be down the Chesapeake, up the Rappahannock to Urbana, and across land to the terminus of the railroad on the York River, mine to move directly to a point on the railroad southwest of Manassas,

If you will give me satisfactory answers to the following questions, I shall gladly yield my plan to yours:

First. Does not your plan involve a greatly larger expenditure of time and money than mine?

Second. Wherein is a victory more certain by your plan than mine?

Third. Wherein is a victory more valuable by your plan than mine?

Fourth. In fact, would it not be less valuable in this, that it would break no great line of the enemy's communications, while mine would?

Fifth. In case of disaster, would not a retreat be more difficult by your plan than mine?

Major-General McClellan.

Your truly,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

 LETTER TO MRS. BIXBY.

(No artist, sculptor or word painter has ever excelled the following in lofty sentiment or the consummate art of expression.)

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, November 21, 1864.

MRS. BIXBY, Boston, Massachusetts:

Dear Madam: I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Humor of the Campaign

Evening Post, New York, August 25, 1858)

Lights and Shadows of the Illinois Canvas

The correspondent of the *Chicago Tribune* gives the following extracts from "Abe Lincoln's" speech at Havana (Ill.) on the 13th inst.:

A QUESTION OF MUSCLE.

"I am informed that my distinguished friend yesterday became a little excited—nervous, perhaps—(laughter)—and he said something about *fighting*, as though referring to a pugilistic encounter between him and myself. Did anybody in this audience hear him use such language? (Cries of yes.) I am informed, further, that somebody in his audience, rather more excited or nervous than himself, took off his coat, and offered to take the job off Judge Douglas's hands, and fight Lincoln himself. Did anybody here witness that warlike proceeding? (Laughter and cries of yes.) Well, I merely desire to say that I shall fight neither Judge Douglas or his second. (Great laughter.) I shall not do this for two reasons, which I will now explain. In the first place, a fight would *prove* nothing which is in issue in this contest. It might establish that Judge Douglas is a more muscular man than myself, or it might demonstrate that I am a more muscular man than Judge Douglas. But this question is not referred to in the Cincinnati platform, nor in either of the Springfield platforms. (Great laughter.) Neither result would prove him right or me wrong. And so of the gentlemen who volunteered to do his fighting for him. If my fighting Judge Douglas would not prove anything, it would certainly prove nothing for me to fight his bottle-holder. (Continued laughter.)

"My second reason for not having a personal encounter with the Judge is, that I don't believe he wants it himself. (Laughter.) He and I are about the best friends in the world, and when we get together he would no more think of fighting me than of fighting his wife. Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, when the Judge talked about fighting, he was not giving vent to any ill-feeling of his own, but merely trying to excite—well, *enthusiasm* against me on the part of his audience. And as I find he was tolerable successful, we will call it quits." (Cheers and laughter.)



To the fertile brain and inventive genius of the Hon. Thomas D. Knight credit is due for having suggested the name of this magazine, "The Rail-Splitter."

Having established its paternity, we shall now watch its career with interest.

Opinions of Club Presidents

Letter from Honorable George W. Dixon, President of the Hamilton Club of Chicago:



GEORGE W. DIXON.

GENTLEMEN: I congratulate you upon an organization formed to perpetuate the ideals of Abraham Lincoln, who preserved a government, the freest and best the world has ever known. The people will ever pay fitting tribute to this providential man.

Permit me to recall the words of one of our most distinguished orators, "The figure of Mr. Lincoln will stand out a thousand years from now as conspicuous as it does at the present time."

With kindest personal regards to all the officers.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE W. DIXON,

* President Hamilton Club.

Letter from Honorable Chester Arthur Legg, President of the Marquette Club:

GENTLEMEN: I heartily endorse the Lincoln League of Illinois; first, because I love so fervently and cherish so fondly the character and teachings of its patron saint. Having tried for many years, so far as my time has permitted, to read everything by and of Abraham Lincoln, somehow I believe it my duty, and the duty of every good American, to aid every legitimate undertaking that seeks to rivet in the minds and hearts of our great seething, heterogeneous population the simple yet sublime virtues of him who said "With malice towards none, with charity for all."



CHESTER A. LEGG.

Secondly, I believe this particular organization is peculiarly fitted, both by reason of the time and place of its organization to accomplish splendid

work. In the State which offered him to the nation and humanity, and following closely upon the centennial of his birth, this organization should meet with such popular support as to arouse a national impulse to join in its work. Centennial celebrations have at best but an ephemeral influence. This movement points to the way by which the work and character of Abraham Lincoln can be kept ever fresh in the public mind.

I beg the honor to remain

Very truly yours,

CHESTER ARTHUR LEGG,

President of The Marquette Club.



ROBERT H. McCORMICK, JR.

evil of the nation, depends upon the attitude of her young men; her young men, standing together and organized in some state-wide league. Your league has the opportunity.

I congratulate you for putting the ball in motion. I hope it creates an avalanche.

Very sincerely yours,

ROBERT H. McCORMICK, JR.

President Illinois Athletic Club.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

"Abraham Lincoln was an American of Americans, and believed in America for Americans. Abraham Lincoln stood, as no other name in our history stands, for the union of the States, for the preservation of the Republic, and the Republican party. All hail the spirit, all hail the principles, all hail the example—the inspiring example—of that man of the people, that wisest of rulers, that most glorious of Republicans, Abraham Lincoln."—DEFEW.

Emancipation Proclamation

January 1, 1863

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, On the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to-wit:

“That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

“That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and in fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall in the absence of strong countervailing testimony be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States.”

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of 100 days from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to-wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida,

Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be, free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President: WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

LINCOLN'S GREATNESS.

"As we study the characteristics which made Lincoln great and successful, we find them not in the usual gifts of great statesmen. Others have been more cultivated, others have had more genius, others have had more experience and training, but none of any time had as the motive power of every action an indomitable and resistless moral force. You may call it the principle of natural religion, or whatever you may. It was an instinct for the right, a comprehension of justice, a boundless sympathy and compassion, an intense and yearning love for his fellows and their welfare which knew neither rank nor race, but gathered within its charity all mankind."

Campaign Poetry

(October 27, 1858)

Great Meeting in Chicago

The Republicans of Chicago held a tremendous meeting last Saturday night, on which occasion they were addressed by John Wentworth. Metropolitan Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, there being nearly 4,000 present in the hall. One of the notable features of this meeting was the interest exhibited by the Germans and Scandinavians, who were out in full force. Frank Lombard was on hand, with some stirring songs of which we subjoin a sample:

OLD DAN TUCKER.

We hear a cry increasing still,
Like light it springs from hill to hill—
From Pennsylvania's State it leaps,
And o'er the Buckeye valley sweeps—

Get out of the way Stephen Douglas,
Get out of the way Stephen Douglas,
Get out of the way Stephen Douglas,
Lincoln is the man we want to serve us.

The Hoosier State first caught the cry,
The Hawkeye State then raised it high,
The Sucker State now waits the day,
When Lincoln leads to victory.

Get out the way, etc.

Cheer up, for victory's on its way,
No power its onward march can stay;
As well to stop the thunder's roar,
As hope for Douglas to serve us more.

Get out the way, etc.

Then, Freeman, rally, one and all,
Respond to our brave leader's call;
Free Speech, Free Press, Free Soil want we,
And Lincoln to lead for Liberty.

Get out the way, etc.

RALLY SONG.

BY R. F. FLINT
(For the Galeburg Democrat)

From where the lordly Michigan
Rolls out its silver waves,
And great Chicago sends her fleets
For everything but slaves—
From where the bright *For River*
Between its forest shines,
And the swarthy laborers gather,
Around *Galen's* mines.

From where old *Mississippi*,
Sweeps downward to the sea,
By his young cities and the wilds
Where cities are to be—
From the distant groves of *Stephenson*,
And the harvest fields of *Kane*,
Where their leaders have the same true hearts
And the same thrice honored name.

From all the plains between them,
Where breathing clouds of steam,
The Iron Steed bursts airward,
With Freedom in its scream.
Where brave *LaSalle* sits watching
With honest pride and joy,
The mighty lakes reach down and clasp
The lovely Illinois.

To where *Peoria* laves her feet
Along its sleeping strand,
And reaches o'er its flood to grasp
Old *Tazewell* by the hand,
Freemen of the Prairie State
Your brethren near and far,
Have girded on their armor,
And are marching to the war.

For the day—the hour—is chosen,
And the battle is at hand.
Ho! Rush into the swelling ranks,
Ye saviors of the land.
And when the fight is over,
Let every sire and son
Swell the glad clamor to the skies,
That tells the day is won.

THE EYES OF LINCOLN.

Sad eyes that were patient and tender,
 Sad eyes that were steadfast and true,
 And warm with unchanging splendor
 Of courage no ills could subdue.

Eyes dark with the dread of the morrow,
 And woe for the day that was gone,
 The Sleepless companions of sorrow,
 The watchers that witnessed the dawn.

Eyes tired from the clamor of goading
 And dim from the stress of the years,
 And hallowed by pain and foreboding
 And strained by repression of tears.

Sad eyes that were wearied and blighted
 By visions of sieges and wars
 Now watch o'er a country united
 From the luminous slopes of the stars!

WALT MASON.

(Copyright 1909 by George Matthew Adams.)

MR. LINCOLN—WHAT IS THOUGHT OF HIM ABROAD.

(Illinois State Journal, Springfield, November 3, 1858.)

In the last number of the Concord (N. H.) *Independent Democrat* we find a graphic and unbiased resume of the late contest in this state. We extract from its columns the following handsome compliment to the Hon. Abraham Lincoln:

As an outsider, with many personal sympathies for Douglas, we have carefully read the reports of the speeches of these chosen champions of "Douglas Democracy" and Republicanism. And we are compelled to the conclusion that in Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas finds his equal and his superior, as a skillful debater and as an orator. If Douglas has fulfilled the expectations of his friends and excited their enthusiasm, Lincoln has excited equal enthusiasm among the Republicans and displayed a degree of ability far exceeding the most sanguine expectations of those who expected most of him. His meetings have everywhere been thronged by immense audiences whose enthusiasm has been almost unbounded. From being regarded, as he was at the outset of the campaign, the equal of Douglas and the standard-bearer of the Republican army, he is now looked upon as the "embodiment" of the whole contest. And whatever shall be the result of the election, which takes place in Illinois next Tuesday, Abraham Lincoln will emerge from the smoke of the battle covered with honors.

Lincoln Day Speakers

Lincoln Day Speakers recommended and approved by the Lincoln League of Illinois:

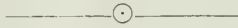
Harry F. Atwood.....Chicago	Wm. H. Stead.....Springfield
Emery Andrews.....Mattoon	W. J. Calhoun.....Chicago
James Edgar Brown.....Chicago	Jenkin Lloyd Jones.....Chicago
Henry R. Rathbone.....Chicago	Dr. F. W. Gunsaulus.....Chicago
J. McCan Davis.....Springfield	E. W. Sims.....Chicago
P. H. O'Donnell.....Belvidere	George R. Peck.....Chicago
Frank P. Sadler.....Chicago	E. J. Brundage.....Chicago
A. K. Stearns.....Waukegan	W. W. Wilson, M. C.....Chicago
Harry North.....Rockford	Chester A. Legg.....Chicago
Charles W. Hadley.....Wheaton	R. H. McCormick, Jr.....Chicago
Thomas D. Knight.....Chicago	Ninian H. Welch.....Chicago
C. Arch Williams.....Chicago	Judge Chas. S. Cutting...Chicago
Walter Brewer.....Toledo	Fletcher Dohyns.....Chicago
C. M. Connors.....Toledo	Marquis Eaton.....Chicago
John F. Voigt.....Mattoon	Chas. L. Abbott.....Elgin
Richard Yates.....Springfield	Dr. W. A. Evans.....Chicago
Bernard P. Barasa.....Chicago	Oscar H. Wylie.....Paptors
Senator John Daily.....Peoria	F. J. Tecklenberg.....Belleville
Francis W. Parker.....Chicago	F. L. Hatch.....Springfield
J. Bert Miller.....Kankakee	Geo. V. Helfrich.....Carthage
John F. Tyrrell.....Chicago	Nathan William MacChesney, Chicago.
Rev. R. A. White.....Chicago	Chesley R. Perry, Chicago.
Judge Orrin N. Carter....Chicago	

SPRINGFIELD TO WASHINGTON

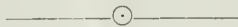
Malicious gossip and friendly jest had both, during the campaign, described the "rail-splitter" candidate as possessing great personal highness: this was now seen to be an utter misfortune. The people beheld in the new President a man six feet four inches in height, a stature which of itself would be hailed in any assemblage as one of the outward signs of leadership; joined to this was a spare but muscular frame, and large and strongly marked features corresponding to his unusual stature. Quiet in demeanor, but erect in bearing, his face, even in repose was not unattractive; and when lit up by his open, genial smile, or illuminated in the utterance of a strong and stirring thought, his countenance was positively handsome. His voice, pitched in rather

a high key, but of great clearness and penetration, made his public remarks audible to a wide circle of listeners. His speeches were short; but his pithy, epigrammatic sentences, full of logical directness and force, presented the questions of the hour in new and unwonted aspects, which the exhaustive discussions of the campaign had not yet reached.

It would be impossible within any short space to give an analytic summary of the twenty to thirty short addresses he delivered on his journey. But, so long as the nation shall live, every American ought to remember his thrilling keynote of that crisis, uttered in his very first speech at Indianapolis; an admonition equally valuable to statesmen or people in every emergency which the future may bring. "Of the people," said he, "when they rise in mass in behalf of the Union and the liberties of their country, truly may it be said, 'The gates of hell cannot prevail against them.' In all trying positions in which I shall be placed—and doubtless I shall be placed in many such—my reliance will be upon you and the people of the United States; and I wish you to remember, now and forever, that it is your business and not mine; that if the Union of these States and the liberties of this people shall be lost, it is but little to any one man of fifty-two years of age, but a great deal to the thirty millions of people who inhabit these United States, and to their posterity in all coming time. It is your business to rise up and preserve Union and liberty for yourselves, and not for me." (Nicolay—*Outbreak of the Rebellion*.)



"In Lincoln they found one of the most skillful practiced politicians—that is to say, one of the greatest organizers—of modern times. As a practical politician he has not been equaled by any one in America, unless it be by Thomas Jefferson himself. * * * He was educated in every device of the practical politics of his day, always subtle in his processes, but using his subtlety—as here and there some great soldier has used physical force—to leave men freer than he found them. He was great as an orator because he was great as a politician, a leader, an organizer. His second Inaugural and his speech at Gettysburg are immortal because they come from the soul—from the deep emotion of a man who habitually suppresses himself. * * * Such a man is Titanic in his possibilities of good and evil, because he represents so nearly in their fulness the Titanic possibilities of the common, every day human nature."—*Brewer's World's Best Orations*.



Judge Orrin N. Carter of the Illinois Supreme Court will deliver an address at the Hamilton Club at the noonday luncheon, February 12th, on Lincoln and Hamilton.

Judge Carter's eloquent address before that Club two years ago on "Lincoln as a Lawyer" is still remembered with pleasure.

A PATRIOT'S PROGRAM

By LOUIS A. BOWMAN, Oak Park, Ill.)

- TO LOVE my country and appreciate its true grandeur as the cradle of liberty, the author of freedom, the leader among nations
- TO BELIEVE in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the eternal principles which they promulgated
- TO STUDY the lives of the great men whose ideas and ideals achieved and maintained liberty for whites, blacks and browns, realizing that present-day blessings are resultant from their heroic sacrifices
- TO SERVE my country loyally, with arms if needed, but always with equal loyalty in peace, realizing that the present opportunity for service is in serving its people and its institutions, and that such opportunity may lie in my own precinct, ward, village or city
- TO REVERE the stars and stripes not merely as an idle sentiment, but with a glowing heart which impels right conduct
- TO PARTICIPATE in politics, meaning by politics all matters pertaining to public welfare, and to do my full share to redeem them from corrupt men
- TO USE my franchise conscientiously, fearlessly, independently, at primary and polls, and reprove my neighbor who does not
- TO EXERT my influence for the enactment of wise laws for the protection of men, women and children, to aid in their enforcement, and to oppose the official who violates his oath by declining to enforce them
- TO DESPISE anarchy, whether its expression be by a misguided individual, or by a mob, a corporation, a trust or a union, and to strike it a blow wherever it raises its hissing head
- TO BE AN ENEMY to graft, dishonesty, selfishness, to be an uncompromising foe to all manner of vice, and to work and vote against them at every opportunity
- TO OPPOSE with vigor, tyranny, greed, oppression and injustice, and to do my best to obtain square treatment for every individual whom I may help
- TO DEVOTE a portion of my time, strength and means for the annihilation of evil and the upbuilding of the good, for the resistance of wrong and the assistance of right
- TO DO WELL all the ordinary every-day duties and to accomplish something for the elevation of the ideals of mankind
- TO BE a true patriot, not for reward or glory, but for genuine love of freedom, liberty, manhood and principle
- TO SERVE my generation as devotedly in peace as my ancestors served theirs and their posterity in war
- TO BUILD up a manly character which shall be as strong as the oaks of the forest and as pure as its crystal springs
- TO BE a living exemplification of the eternal principle that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people"
- THIS shall be my life's working program as a true American citizen

Lincoln League of Illinois

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The name of this organization shall be the LINCOLN LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT (See Ante, Page 1).

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. This club shall consist of active, associate and honorary members.

SEC. 2. Active members shall be members of the Republican party of Illinois between the ages of twenty-one and forty-two.

SEC. 3. Associate members shall be members of the Republican party above the age of forty-two.

SEC. 4. Honorary members shall be such persons as are nominated by the Executive Board or elected by vote of the League.

SEC. 5. Active members only shall be eligible to hold office and to vote.

ARTICLE IV.

FEES AND DUES.

The membership fee of active members shall be one dollar, and the dues of active members shall be one dollar per year. The Executive Board shall have power to assess and collect an additional sum each year not exceeding one dollar per member.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS, POWERS AND DUTIES.

SECTION 1. The officers of this League shall consist of a president, first, second and third vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer. No officer shall be eligible for re-election to succeed himself.

SEC. 2. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the League for the term of one year, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

SEC. 3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the League, and in his absence one of the vice-presidents may preside.

SEC. 4. The Secretary shall keep the records of the League, and shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to this office.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and take charge of all the money belonging to the League, and to disburse the same upon the orders signed by the chairman and secretary of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

SECTION 1. There shall be an Executive Board, which shall consist of the officers of the League and nine other members, to be appointed by the president of the League.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to carry out the object and purposes of the League in appropriate manner and in accordance with the constitution and by-laws.

SEC. 3. The Executive Board shall meet regularly at least twice a year, at such time and place as shall be decided upon by said board. Five members thereof shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to prepare a list of able and prominent men who can be secured to deliver addresses on Lincoln under the auspices of the Lincoln League.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to co-operate with the local posts in arranging programs and securing good speakers for the Lincoln birthday exercises.

SEC. 6. The Executive Board shall print and publish addresses on Lincoln delivered before the Lincoln League, or any Lincoln post, which possesses unusual merit, for distribution to the members of the League.

SEC. 7. The Executive Board shall offer a Lincoln League medal annually for the best oration on Lincoln, of the value of not exceeding \$100. Contestants therefor shall be members of any school or college in Illinois. The Executive Board shall prescribe the rules to govern the contest and award for the same.

ARTICLE VII

STANDING COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint from the membership of the League the committees on

- Organization,
- Finance,
- Membership,
- Publicity,
- Entertainment,
- Lincoln's Birthday Exercises.

SEC. 2. There shall also be a committee on public affairs, which shall take cognizance of all important public questions and make recommendations to the Executive Board for action as will best subserve the interests of good government.

ARTICLE VIII.

MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. The annual meeting of the Lincoln League shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday after Lincoln's birthday, and at such time and place as the Executive Board shall direct. The President shall call special meetings upon the request of any ten members, or of the Executive Board.

SEC. 2. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 3. The election for officers of the League shall be held at the annual meeting. Voting shall be by ballot by members present.

ARTICLE IX.

LINCOLN POSTS.

SECTION 1. Any seven members of the Lincoln League living in the same city in Illinois shall constitute a local organization of the Lincoln League, and be known as a Lincoln post, and shall be designated Lincoln League of Illinois (here insert name of city), Post. For example, the local post of Joliet shall be known as Lincoln League of Illinois, Joliet Post.

SEC. 2. Lincoln posts shall elect officers on Lincoln's birthday of each year. The officers shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The president shall appoint committees to correspond to the committees of the Lincoln League, and it shall be the duty of the Lincoln posts to carry out the objects of the Lincoln League in their respective cities.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the officers of the Lincoln posts to see that Lincoln's birthday is appropriately observed by public exercises in their respective cities.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the presidents of the local posts to submit reports of their acts at the annual meeting of the Lincoln League.

SEC. 5. All members of the Lincoln League shall affiliate with some local post in the county in which they reside.

ARTICLE X.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

SECTION 1. There shall be an advisory committee composed of one hundred and two associate members, to be selected by the Executive Board, one from each county in the state.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the advisory committee to familiarize themselves with all public questions of importance, and recommend action thereon to the executive committee.

ARTICLE XI.

AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. The constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present at any meeting of the League, providing due notice in writing of such proposed change shall have been sent to the active members four weeks in advance of said meeting.



J. BERT MILLER,

States Attorney of Kankakee county, who presided at the organization
of the Lincoln League of Illinois, at Springfield,
December 8th, 1909.

"Lincoln saw all sides of a proposition.

"He recognized instinctively its defects of proportion, and its incongruities. His mind had the impartiality, the freedom from prejudice, the flexibility of sympathy, which belongs to the humorist alone."

Lincoln the Immortal

From Caesar to Bismark and Gladstone the world has had its soldiers and its statesmen, who rose to eminence and power step by step through a series of geometrical progression, as it were, each promotion following in regular order, the whole obedient to well established and well understood laws of cause and effect. These were not what we called "men of destiny." They were men of the time. They were men whose career had a beginning, a middle and an end, rounding off a life with a history, full, it may be of interesting and exciting events, but comprehensible and comprehensive, simple, clear, complete.

The inspired men are fewer. Whence their emination, where and how they got their power, and by what rule they lived, moved and had their being, we cannot see. There is no explication to these lives. They rose from shadow and went in mist. We see them, feel them, but we know them not. They arrived, God's word upon their lips; they did their office, God's mantle upon them; and they passed away, God's holy light between the world and them, leaving behind a memory half mortal and half myth. From first to last they were distinctly the creating of some special providence, baffling the wit of man to fathom, defeating the mechinations of the world, the flesh and the devil until their work was done, and passed from the scene as mysteriously as they had come upon it; Luther, to wit; Shakespeare, Burns, even Bonaparte, the arch-angel of war, havoc and ruin; not to go back into the dark ages for examples of the hand of God stretched out to raise up, to protect, and to cast down.

Tried by this standard and observed in an historic spirit, where shall we find an illustration more impressive than in Abraham Lincoln, whose life, career and death might be chanted by a Greek chorus as at once the prelude and the epilogue of the most imperial theme of modern times.

Born as low as the Son of God in a hovel, of what real parentage we know not; reared in penury, squalor, with no gleam of light, nor fair surroundings; a young manhood vexed by wierd dreams and visions, bordering at times on madness; singularly awkward, ungainly, even among the uncouth about him; grotesque in his aspects and ways, it was reserved for this strange being, late in life, without name or fame or ordinary preparation, to be snatched from obscurity, raised to supreme cammand, and entrusted with the destiny of a nation.

The great leaders of his party were made to stand aside; the most experienced and accomplished men of the day, men like Seward and Chase and Sumner, statesmen famous and trained, were sent to the rear; while this comparatively unknown and fantastic figure was brought by unseen hands to the front and given the reins of power. It is entirely immaterial whether we believe in what he said or did, whether we are for him or against him; but for us to admit that during four years, carrying with

them such a pressure of responsibility as the world has never witnessed before, he filled the measure of the vast space allotted him in the actions of mankind and in the eyes of the world, is to say that he was inspired of God, for nowhere else could he have acquired the enormous equipment indispensable to the situation.

Where did Shakespeare get his genius? Where did Mozart get his music? Whose hand smote the lyre of the Scottish plowman, and stayed the life of the German priest? God alone; and, so surely as these were raised up by God, inspired of God was Abraham Lincoln, and, a thousand years hence, no story, no tragedy, no epic poem will be filled with greater wonder than that which tells of his life and death. If Lincoln was not inspired by God, then were not Luther, or Shakespeare or Burns. If Lincoln was not inspired of God, then there is no such thing on earth as special providence or the interposition of Divine power in the affairs of men.

HENRY WATTERSON.

Mr. Fred A. Hollister, a prominent business man of Aurora, and a charter member of the Lincoln League, is related to Mrs. Lincoln.

Major Henry R. Rathbone, father of Mr. Henry R. Rathbone, a charter member of the Lincoln League, was present as an invited guest, in the President's box, at Ford's Theatre, in Washington the night President Lincoln was assassinated.

COMMEMORATION ODE.

LOWELL.

"He knew to bide his time,
And can his fame abide,
Still patient in his simple faith sublime,
Till the wise years decide.
Great Captains, with their guns and drums,
Disturb our judgment for an hour,
But at last silence comes;
These all are gone, and standing like a tower
Our children shall behold his fame,
The kindly-earnest, brave fore-seeing man,
Sagacious, patient, dreading praise, not blame,
New birth of our new soil, the first American."

GOV. CURTIS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

During the Civil War, Gov. Curtis of Pennsylvania, who was a somewhat excitable alarmist bombarded President Lincoln with telegrams predicting all kinds of disasters.

Once he sent a telegram saying "The Confederates are within 4 miles of Harrisburg and have commenced firing," to which Lincoln replied, "What are they firing at?"

Lincoln League of Illinois

Application for Membership

..... 1910.

To the LINCOLN LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS :

I hereby apply for membership, for
which I am eligible under the By-Laws.

Occupation

Residence Address

Business Address

Signature of Applicant

Recommended by

DE LANG, COLES & CO.
PRINTERS & BINDERS
CHICAGO, ILL.





Copyright 1908, L. G. Muller, Chicago

THIS PORTRAIT TAKEN FROM BRONZE BAS RELIEF BY PICKETTE,
THE PROPERTY OF L. G. MULLER, CHICAGO, HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY
ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR NEW ISSUE OF POSTAL CARDS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA

973.7L63H6R131 C001
THE RAIL SPLITTER CHICAGO
1:1 1910 F



3 0112 031828343